

Application Number 10/519,892
Response to the Office Action dated 06/05/2008

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks herein. In the final office action mailed on June 5, 2008, claims 11 and 16-19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Claim 29 is indicated as being allowable. Applicants amend claims 1, 5, 10, 12-16 and 29, cancel claims 2, 4, 8-9, 11, and 20-28 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have not added new matter as explained below. With respect to claim 29, Applicants correct a minor error. Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10, 12-19, and 29 are pending.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 and 3: the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3 as being obvious in view of Simons '924 which in turn incorporates by reference Simons '494. In response, Applicants amend claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 11 and intervening claims 4 and 8. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Because claim 1 now incorporates all the limitations of the objected-to claim 11 and intervening claims 4 and 8, claim 1 is allowable. Claim 3 remains dependent upon claim 1 and based on the amendments to claim 1, claim 3 is now allowable. Applicants request the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 3.

Claims 4-10 and 12-15: the Examiner rejected claims 4-10 and 12-15 as being obvious over Simons '924 and Rife '288. In response, Applicants cancel claim 4, 8, and 9. Applicants amend claims 5, 10, 12-15 to be dependent upon claim 1, as amended and discussed above. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection.

Recall that claim 1 is now considered to be allowable because it incorporates claims 4, 8 and allowable claim 11. Because all the remaining rejected claims 5-7, 10, 12-15 are now dependent upon allowable claim 1, Applicants request removal of the rejection and allowance of these claims.

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Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 11 and 16-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 29 is allowable.

Applicants rewrote claim 11 into existing claim 1 and incorporated the limitations of intervening claims 4 and 8. Claim 16 is rewritten to be in independent form incorporating all the limitations of the base claim 1 and intervening claim 4. Claims 17-19 are dependent upon claim 16. All claims are allowable in view of the amendments to and dependence upon independent claim 1 and independent claim 16, except for claim 29 which is allowable.

Should there remain any minor issues that can be easily resolved with a telephone conversation, the Examiner is asked to call Mr. Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No 30300 at 612.455.3804.


Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: September 5, 2008

By: _____


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